

THE PACIFIC

Commercial Advertiser.

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR.

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Some days ago in arguing against the protection given the Hotel Stables this paper pointed to the danger visited upon the hotel itself. Last night the chief clerk of that hostelry was taken to the pesthouse. Further comment is unnecessary.

"The commission which was sent to Hawaii," declares Senator Cullom, "found there a very good civil government." That is what most fair-minded investigators have found. It is entirely safe to say that no State or Territory of the Union has ever had its laws more faithfully or economically executed than are those of the government of these Islands.

There is a tendency among those who have always bewailed what they call the Family Compact to criticize Minister Young for making a Road Supervisor out of a man who has lately come to Honolulu. In other words he is called to account for not standing in with a Kamaaina Compact. So far as the Advertiser is concerned it does not think any better of one close political corporation or privileged class than another, if any exists. The point in choosing an official is to get the best man irrespective of the date of his arrival on this beach or of the number of cousins he has in the community. If Minister Young has observed this rule he will easily live down criticism; if not, and the future condition of the roads proves it, then it will be quite right to get after him with a sharp stick.

In a useful communication printed elsewhere, "H. M. W." suggests that, owing to Honolulu's late experience with livery stables, it might be well to keep them out of the heart of the town hereafter. The writer mentions half a mile as a proper distance from the center but we are not sure but the margin of safety should be wider yet. If a mile or a mile and a half were insisted upon no hardship to livery stable men or to the public would necessarily follow. Time was when, if livery stables were not handy they could do no great amount of business, but the telephone has done away with the need of central locations for the actual carriage-houses and horse barns. The livery stables if put in the suburbs with their offices in the commercial center and their telephone lines reaching to every part of the town would do as much business as they ever did and serve the public as well. Then if they produced epidemics they would not threaten the places where the crowds assemble and they would not be so great a menace in the matter of fires.

SOURCES OF INFECTION.

Yong Look, the Chinaman who was found sick yesterday with pronounced plague symptoms at a place on the Waikiki road, was released from the Kalihi detention camp the week before with a clean bill of health. The question is how and where he became infected. Inspectors and doctors are tracing back his movements before he and his family reached the house where he fell ill and some of them think that he slept in a place around Apua where he might have come in contact with bubonic germs.

While the search for facts of this kind is proper and desirable there is another line of inquiry which might be followed up with advantage. This concerns the food Yong Look ate before he became sick. Did he, after some weeks of subsistence on detention camp fare, celebrate his release by eating Asiatic delicacies? If so, what were they and where did the man get them?

The Advertiser believes that plague comes oftenest from what these Orientals eat, not from the places where they walk, visit or do business. Thousands of white men have gone freely among them on their own ground and few have taken the plague. Some of those who caught it are known to have been consumers of Oriental sweetmeats; the others may have been. If the danger is chiefly one of locality more whites would be taken, for they are not by physical nature immune. May we not fairly infer that they escape because they are not exposed as the Asiatics are, to the food sources of infection?

This question of Asiatic foodstuffs ought to be looked into scientifically. Dr. Emerson is moving in the matter and we trust that he will not lack for assistance in the Board. Samples of all suspected merchandise should be taken and cultures made from them. Then if it turns out that the Asiatic food contains bubonic germs the Board of Health will be justified in taking extreme measures to keep it out of the Islands and destroy what is already here. Who knows but that is the one thing needful to overcome the bubonic malady? Who can say that the evidence does not begin to point with an unerring finger to the presence of the

ANNEXATION—ARE WE BETTER OFF?

The Independent takes a text from yesterday's Advertiser to make a point for the Lost Cause. We said that under the threatened alterations in the Cullom Bill the political outlook is gloomy and the labor outlook by no means propitious; whereupon the Independent reminds us that these difficulties might have been escaped if the annexationists of 1893 had not "sold the country." The Independent used to say that the United States Government, acting through the Boston's marines, seized the country. Both charges cannot be true—but let that pass. The point our contemporary makes, and from which there are also sufficient grounds of dissent, is that the present local conditions and prospects would be better if the Monarchy had not been overthrown.

We contend that they would be worse. Does the Independent think that the Hawaiian Monarchy or any other autonomous government here could have saved the reciprocity treaty from the growing and far-reaching antagonism of the sugar trust and the American sugar-beet grower? We assume not, for that paper even affects to believe that there will be a tax on sugar with the Islands under the American flag. Surely, after that it cannot assume that reciprocity would have been safe under the native flag. Nor could it have been safe. Do we not remember that the sugar trust, just before the Spanish war upset all its calculations, was assailing not only annexation but reciprocity, and that despite the committal of the Republican party to both principles the trust felt sure of winning? It is no stretch of the hypothetical to say that if the Monarchy had existed here at that time the Mainland sugar people would have had their way. There would have been no party to come to the rescue of the Monarchy, and Republicans, in particular, would have sought the favor of the sugar-beet men by giving them the protection they desired.

The question of government acceptable to white investors must also be considered. During the last days of Kalakaua and the short reign of Liliuokalani these Islands made little progress. Why? Because, with the lesson of the Wilcox-Kalakaua uprising of 1887 and, later, the autocratic impulses of the Queen to consider, foreign capital did not dare establish itself here. When the Monarchy went out the condition of finances was such that, a short time thereafter, Claus Spreckels thought he could upset the government by demanding \$90,000 which he had loaned the treasury on call. Under annexation the surplus in the treasury has neared the \$2,000,000 mark and Honolulu and the plantation interests have grown beyond all previous conception. Had the Monarchy lasted, the Islands would be no richer in 1906 and possibly not so rich, even if reciprocity had continued, than they were in 1890.

Another danger which grew up under the old regime, and from which it could not have protected the country was that of Japanese commercial and industrial absorption. Why were Japanese free laborers being sent here by the shipload, not only under the Monarchy, but under the Provisional Government and the Republic? Was it not to enable them to absorb the minor industries, trades and traffickings of the country, crowding out the white artisans and merchants and making it impossible for the natives to get along? Was not this self-evident conspiracy the first step towards a demand for the local suffrage under the most-favored nation clause? We do not speculate rashly when we say that, if the Monarchy were in existence today or even the Republic in its original form, we should have a Japanese issue of momentous significance on our hands. Annexation gave us the weapons of defence; for it is well within the power of the United States, as it could not have been of any Island government, to stop Japanese immigration when it grows dangerous, just as Chinese immigration was stopped. Knowing that as it did, the Japanese embassy at Washington fought day and night to defeat, first, the annexation treaty, and, later, the annexation bill. It had a paid literary bureau at the time, one of the writers for which was a local journalist who, since his return to these Islands, has been one of the most conspicuous of the professional Earnest Patriots. We merely mention this to show the nature and extent of Japanese official solicitude for an open field of racial expansion in Hawaii.

Viewing these three benefits—the setting up of the only possible safeguard of the sugar business upon which the prosperity of Hawaii depends; the introduction to the group and to this city of millions of dollars of foreign capital; the provision of the means of safety from an overwhelming Japanese invasion—viewing these benefits, we say no fair-minded person can be sorry for annexation. No doubt the change has its drawbacks, but, dealing with benefits as comparative, we may credit annexation with bestowing more of them upon all the

COLONY OR TERRITORY?

The question of what the term "United States" means, which has arisen in connection with the Porto Rico tariff bill, is one of local as well as general interest. If its meaning in the Constitution is that all territory permanently under the American flag is a part of the United States, subject to its organic law, then there can be no special tariff enacted for or against Porto Rico, Hawaii or any other outlying possession. This is because the Constitution requires that "all duties imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States," and that no vessel bound to or from one State shall be "obliged to enter, clear or pay duties in another." Under this ruling there would have to be free trade and uniform navigation laws between insular possessions and the Mainland, thus making the colonial idea impracticable and incorporating Porto Rico, Tutuila, Guam, Hawaii and the Philippines in the fiscal way, as integral parts of the Union.

There are many Republicans and Democrats in Congress who desire to have the ruling made to limit the application of the organic law and keep the newly acquired Islands—generally excepting Hawaii—in a colonial class by themselves. They do not like the idea of taking the Filipinos and the Porto Ricans as American citizens and running the risk that some future Congress, hard pressed for political aid, will grant them statehood in return for votes in the Senate and House. Whatever these Congressmen can do, therefore, to justify the establishment of colonies will be done.

Does the Constitution give them authority? In a way it certainly does, by recognizing the fact that the United States may have suzerain powers. The thirteenth amendment to the Constitution reads, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction." There we have two classes of American territorial property—the United States for one class and places subject to their jurisdiction for another. This makes it reasonably clear that colonies have a lawful place under the American system of government.

If Hawaii manages to escape this status, as we believe it will under the final terms of the Cullom Bill, we will be not unthankful for its application elsewhere. Americans here, as well as on the Mainland, can see the undesirability of having Presidential elections settled in Luzon, or great issues of national policy determined by the Senator from Mindanao; and self-interest does not conceal the advantage to us of a tax on our cane-growing competitors.

We note a statement in a local paper that a duty of ½ cent per pound may be put on Hawaiian sugar. This would be impossible under the tariff provisions of the Constitution as given above, providing these Islands are admitted as a Territory. Only in case of a colonial organization here can anything of the sort be expected; and if a colony is on the tapis, why should Congress seek to interfere with and regulate our labor, land immigration and suffrage laws? The condition of a colony is one of domestic freedom, the power owning the country being merely concerned as a suzerain in its sphere of foreign relations. There are certainly no signs of colonial organization for us, and if none appear we are in no peril of a duty on sugar.

If the Cullom bill passes with the election day amendment there will be no general election in Hawaii until November of this year. In that case it will be of importance to get an executive ruling on the question of the validity of the left-over Legislature, the services of which may be seriously needed within the next nine months.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Owyhee, Idaho.

A correspondent asks the meaning and origin of the name "Owyhee," which is attached to a river and county in Idaho. The name was applied to the river by two Kanaka trappers who operated there for the Hudson's Bay Company, in the early days. They found the river lying around out doors without a name, and gave it one that they had brought with them from the Hawaiian Islands, one of the Islands being named Owyhee. On account of the Hudson's Bay Company's ships touching at Honolulu while on their way to the Northwest, they brought many Kanakas here in the service of the company.—Oregonian.

Household Bookkeeping.

A prominent Eastern manufacturer, with a \$10,000 a year family on his hands, undertook to establish a system of bookkeeping in his home. He bought a gilt-edged, kid-covered account book and all that went with it. He explained single entry bookkeeping to his wife and she agreed to keep the accounts as directed. There were only 27 entries in the book when the husband passed it. They were: "Received \$25 from M"—"and spent it all."

What We Might Gain.

If the people in the world were to fast one day in seven we should save enough in a year, a New York writer affirms, to feed all the millions of starv-

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